(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to arrange for this defect being rectified?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Information as to the age in the case of those who are merely officiating in gazetted posts is not, as a rule, available in the Account Office until the officers are confirmed.

(*b*) This question does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Government Museum and Public Gardens.

281. **MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state how many applications have been received for the Directorship of the Museum and Public Gardens during the last two years (1100 and 1101), whether they have been disposed of, and, if so, how?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend appointing a full-time Director for the said institution in addition to the present full-time Superintendent doing duty as Honorary Director as well?

(3) Are the Government aware of the practice in Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and Mysore of placing similar institutions under a Superintendent without any Director above him?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) One application was received in 1101 and the applicant was then told that there was no vacancy.

(2) No.

(3) No.

Filling up of Mr. Natesa Aiyar's Vacancy.

382. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) why permanent arrangements have not been made to fill up the place of the Chief Engineer which has fallen vacant on the retirement of Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that an Assistant Engineer has been put in charge of the Public Works Department, and, if the answer is in the affirmative, his rank and pay in the Public Works Department;

(*c*) whether they are aware of the fact that there are two Executive Engineers in the department who draw a monthly salary of Rs. 800 each;

(*d*) whether it has not been the practice to put the seniormost Engineer in the service in charge of the Chief Engineer's duties when the Chief Engineer's place falls vacant; and

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) is in the affirmative, why the practice or rather the principle has been departed from in this case?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Arrangements have been made.

(*b*) An Assistant Engineer, Mr. C. Balakrishna Rao was put in charge of the current duties of the Chief Engineer's office, an arrangement such as is covered by Articles 70, 76 and 77 of the Travancore Service Regulations. With regard to the second part of the question, the member is referred to the latest *Civil List* which contains the information sought for.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) There has been no settled practice or hard and fast rule on the subject.

(*e*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*d*).

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to the answer to part (*b*), may I know whether there was any precedent when an Assistant Engineer was asked to look after the duties of the Chief Engineer when the latter post became vacant?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There was a precedent when the Chief Engineer was absent the Executive Engineer who was not senior was appointed. That was some years ago and there was also a precedent on a previous occasion when an Assistant Engineer was put in charge.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That is a recent case, is it not?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): But I want to know if there has been any other instance?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know for how many months or days Mr. Balakrishna Rao was in charge of the duties of the Chief Engineer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): About a month.

Placing of Mr. Balakrishna Rao in charge of the Chief Engineer's duties.

283. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the designation of the officer now in charge of the Public Works Department;

(*b*) whether he was not specially deputed on other duty outside the department when the vacancy arose;

(*c*) whether there was not an Assistant Engineer of the same grade and rank working as Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer in the Chief Engineer's office when the Chief Engineer's place fell vacant;

(*d*) whether there was any special reason to bring in Mr. Balakrishna Rao and send away Mr. Harihara Aiyar; and

(*e*) whether Assistant Engineer, Mr. Harihara Aiyar, was at any time put in charge of the Chief Engineer's duties?

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